

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 265

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to commend Marion Ray for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as Director of Helping Hands of Dover.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable community servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Marion Ray is one such estimable individual who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ray, a highly respected member of the Dover community, is the Founder and Director of Helping Hands of Dover, an agency that collects money to assist families in need in purchasing such essentials as food, housing, medication and clothing; and

WHEREAS, one of nine children, Marion Ray worked at the Acme Boot Factory for many years; previously serving her community with the Good Samaritans, she now commits a remarkable amount of time to the ministry of Helping Hands of Dover; and

WHEREAS, from September 2002 through December 2002, Helping Hands of Dover was able to distribute food boxes to 127 families (totaling 4,080 food items), emergency monetary assistance to 53 families, Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes to 97 families, bicycles

for Christmas to 12 children, clothing and household items to six families and bread to all who needed it; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding organization also sent over 400 articles of clothing to Mexico for needy families in that country; and

WHEREAS, Helping Hands of Dover has indisputably made a difference both in the individual lives of those who have received these goods and in the character of the community of Dover; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure as the Director of Helping Hands of Dover, Marion Ray has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to community service, Mrs. Ray has long been known as a loving and generous woman, as she made and donated a memorial quilt to the Dixie Sykes museum decorated with the names of Stewart County veterans of World War II; and

WHEREAS, Marion Ray's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with and relate to people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ray is an extremely giving person who reaches out daily with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Marion Ray is fortunate to share both love and companionship with her husband, the Reverend Robert Ray, and has been blessed with four children, Billy F. Darnell, Jr., Johnny Glenn Darnell, Cindy Wallace and the late Christopher Darnell, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ray enjoys spending time with her family, gardening, flowers, sewing and cats; and

WHEREAS, Marion Ray is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Marion Ray for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as the founder and Director of Helping Hands of Dover and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction and to providing for her fellow human beings in need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.